

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated April 5, 2004. Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-20 are pending in the application. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-12, 14 and 15 are allowed. Applicant submits the following remarks and amendments in response to the Office action. Applicant has further added new claims 21-25.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The examiner asserts that claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Simes. Applicant again has amended the claims to further clarify that unlike Simes, where collar 18 directly attaches to light bulb 10, applicant's "coupling region is independent of the light bulb or a base of the light bulb."

Simes describes attachment of collar 18 to light bulb 10 as follows:

The wire loops 20 and 22 extend upwardly from a hollow interior of the collar 18 and bear against **a base 24 of a light bulb 10** so as to **secure the collar in a desired position on the light bulb 10**. Col. 3, lines 57-60 (emphasis added).

Unlike applicant's claims, Simes' collar attaches directly to a light bulb, through a base of the light bulb. Applicant's claims clearly recite the independence of the extender from the light bulb. Specifically, claim 1 recites:

a first coupling region adapted to removably couple the extender with an outer portion of the base of the light fixture, wherein the outer portion of the base of the light fixture is spaced apart from the light bulb received within the light fixture such that the first coupling region is independent of the light bulb or a base of the light bulb;

Moreover, where first coupling region is adapted to removably couple the extender to the outer portion of the base of the light fixture, where the outer portion of the base of the light fixture "is spaced apart from the light bulb." Simes' collar attaches directly to the light bulb and not to a light fixture. Simes' collar is intended to convert a light bulb into a different type of light bulb – the converted light bulb may be then mounted in a light fixture. In contrast to applicant's disclosure, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Simes of converting a light fixture.

For at least the above reasons the examiner's rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Moreover, claims 2, 4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Similarly, claim 16 recites “a base mount configured to selectively attach the extender to the base of the fixture without engaging a light bulb or a base of a light bulb received within the light fixture.” As described above, Simes discloses attachment of collar 18 directly to the base of a light bulb. Thus, claim 16 should be allowable over Simes and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 16. Each of the dependent claims from claim 16 should be allowable for at least the reason of depending from an allowable independent claim.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Simes. In a proper rejection under §103 “the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations,” not merely something “similar” to that which is claimed. See MPEP §2143. Applicant has amended claim 3 to clearly state that the “base mount has a lip adapted to engage a portion of the base of the light fixture.” Simes does not disclose, teach or suggest any device which is configured to attach to the base of a *light fixture*. The wire loops 20, 22 of Simes are shown to attach directly to a base of a *light bulb* to convert the light bulb into a different type of light bulb. For at least this reason, applicant request the withdraws of the rejection of claim 3.

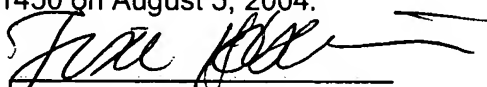
Claims, 6, 7, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simes in view of Chiang. Again, nothing in Simes nor Chiang (or the combination of Chiang and Simes) disclose, teach or suggest an extender configured to

engage a light fixture base. Much less, an extender as claimed with vents. Thus, these claims should be allowable and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Further, dependent claims, 6, 7 and 19 should be allowable for at least the reason of dependence on an allowable base claim.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

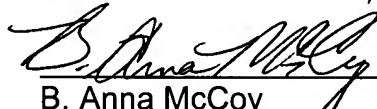
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Respectfully submitted,

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